

## **SUMMARY**

This quarterly report is the 68<sup>th</sup> in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights include:

1. The 86<sup>th</sup> session of the Legal Committee (LEG 86) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from April 28 – May 2, 2003. Among its more significant actions, the LEG: (a) focused on the revised U.S. text to amend the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention); (b) continued work on the draft Convention on Wreck Removal (WRC); and (c) considered from a legal perspective two draft Assembly resolutions adopting guidelines on places of refuge for vessels. (Item 1-F)
2. The 77<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 76) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from May 28 – June 6, 2003. Among its significant actions, the MSC: (a) made clarifications regarding chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention) and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code in order to assist nations in the practical application of these security measures; (b) adopted amendments to SOLAS chapter V regarding navigation bridge visibility and ship's reporting requirements; (c) approved proposed amendments to the SOLAS Convention and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention) relating to the responsibilities of coastal states for persons rescued within their SAR regions; and (d) considered and took actions regarding the reports of seven subcommittees. (Item 1-G)
3. On May 5, 2003, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), U.S. Department of Transportation, issued an interim final rule (49 CFR parts 107, 171, 176, and 177) that incorporates into the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) a requirement that shippers and transporters of certain hazardous materials comply with federal security regulations that apply to motor carrier and vessel transportation. In addition, this interim final rule revises the procedures for applying for an exemption from the HMR to require applicants to certify compliance with applicable federal transportation security laws and regulations. (Item 2-D)
4. On May 23, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule (40 CFR parts 69, 80, 89, 1039, 1065, and 1068) that proposes a comprehensive national program to reduce emissions from nonroad diesel engines by integrating engine and fuel controls as a system to gain the greatest emission reductions. EPA expects the requirements in this proposal to result in significant reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, as well as nonmethane hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, and air toxics. (Item 2-G)
5. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was held in Geneva from December 9-14, 2002. Among its numerous actions, the Conference of Parties adopted the *Technical Guidelines for the*

*Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships*. This document was prepared to provide guidance to countries that have or wish to establish facilities for ship dismantling. (Item 3-A)

6. On May 15, 2003, President George W. Bush transmitted to the U.S. Senate, for its advice and consent, the Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978, (MARPOL 73/78 or MARPOL Convention). The Protocol of 1997 would add Annex VI (regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships) to MARPOL 73/78. (Item 3-F)

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<http://www.marad.dot.gov> (under publications); <http://www.marad.dot.gov/nmrec> (under environmental information); and <http://www.socp.org> (highlights or under publications).